FUNCTION: Hq USAF

February 6, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL HIPPERT

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Pat Coyne

In a February 3 discussion with Mr. Pat Coyne (FIAB Secretariat), he indicated the FIAB was mildly curious about NRO "control" of "Air Force" SR-71's when they were used for covert overflight purposes (after the OXCART vehicles are phased out).

I explained that any SR-71 covert overflights would undoubtedly be managed by the JRC (i.e., JCS) on a flight-by-flight basis and that the AF, per se, would have very little "control." I also pointed out that 303 Committee approval would be required for each such flight. Finally, I indicated we had not yet addressed NRO involvement in any SR-71 overflight activities.

I committed the Staff to advise Mr. Coyne of the SR-71 operations control/coordination/approval procedures when developed.

James T. Stewart
Major General, USAF
NRO Staff

cc: Dr. Flax
Col Falk

1. Col Hippert
2. Dr. Flax
3. Col Falk
4. [redacted]
5. RF

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